



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

**Ronald C. Machen Jr.
United States Attorney**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 22, 2010

USAO Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

**Fort Washington, MD Man Sentenced to 30 Years of
Incarceration for 2007 Ivy City Slaying**

WASHINGTON - Cordell Smith, a 21-year-old Fort Washington, Maryland man, was sentenced today to 30 years in prison by the Honorable Geoffrey Alprin of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the March 28, 2007 murder of Rayshard D. Austin, inside of the Ivy City Apartment Complex located at 1060 Mount Olivet Road, NE, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. Smith was found guilty on May 15, 2009, by a Superior Court jury of Second Degree Murder While Armed, Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, and Carrying a Pistol Without a License.

The government's evidence at trial established that defendant Cordell Smith and Rayshard Austin had been arguing over the attention of a woman. On March 28, 2007, Mr. Austin started to approach Smith, who was inside of an apartment building located at 1060 Mount Olivet Road, NE. In response, Smith retreated down a flight of stairs into a basement level apartment, where he retrieved a handgun from a kitchen cabinet and then went back out of the apartment. Smith traversed the full flight of stairs again to confront Mr. Austin with the gun, shooting him before he could speak. After killing Mr. Austin, the defendant then fled the building and escaped in a car. Mr. Austin's body was transported to the D.C. Medical Examiner's Office, where an autopsy determined that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds to the chest and thigh, and the manner of death a homicide.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended several officers of the Metropolitan Police Department, including lead Detectives Edward Truesdale, Dwayne Partman, Robert Arrington, Anthony Paci, Sean Caine, and Michael F. Murphy, Sgt. John P. Johnson, Mobile Crime Lab Technicians R. Steven Griffin, Charles Egan, and John Holzwart (retired), Patrol Officers Duane Davis, Darrell Young, Franklin Crews and Travis Weston, Latent Fingerprint Examiner Barbara Evans, Firearms Examiner Michael Mulderig, and Chief Medical Examiner Marie-Lydie Y. Pierre-Louis, MD. U.S. Attorney Machen also thanked Larry Grasso of the Intelligence Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Paralegals Ethel Noble and Fern Rhedrick, Legal Assistants Mary Doster and Debra Joyner, Victim Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker, and Litigation Services Technicians Thomas "Ron" Royal, Kim Rich and Tyrone Bowie. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen praised Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert J. Feitel and Keith Becker, who investigated, indicted and tried the case.

###